

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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R 191946Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0724
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 08283

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, CSCE, SHUM, UR
SUBJECT: MOOD IN REFUSENIK COMMUNITY: DEPRESSED TO
DESPERATE

REF: (A) MOSCOW 6817, (B) MOSCOW A-60, (C) MOSCOW 1061

SUMMARY: MOSCOW REFUSENIKS ARE EXTREMELY DISPIRITED DUE
TO CONTINUED OFFICIAL STONEWALLING ON VIRTUALLY ALL REFUSE-
NIK CASES; CONTINUED KGB PRESSURE, INCLUDING ARRESTS
AND CONVICTIONS FOR PARASITISM; REFUSENIKS' PERCEPTIONS OF
INCREASED ANTI-SEMITISM; AND INTRA-COMMUNITY DISPUTES.
ORGANIZED ACTIVITIES CONTINUE, BUT NOT VERY EFFECTIVELY.
SITUATION AMONG NON-JEWISH AND/OR NON-MOXT REFUSENIKS
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MAY BE EVEN MORE DESPERATE. TWO HAVE REPORTEDLY COMMITTED
DESPERATE ACTS IN BIDS TO GAIN ATTENTION FOR THEIR CASES.
ADDITIONAL SUCH ACTS MAY OCCUR. END SUMMARY.

1. A COMBINATION OF EVENTS HAS BROUGHT MOOD IN MOSCOW'S
REFUSENIK COMMUNITY TO AN EXTREMELY LOW POINT. A MAJOR
ELEMENT IS CONTINUED STONEWALLING BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES

ON REFUSENIK CASES. WHILE FIRST QUARTER EXIT VISA PERMISSIONS TO SOVIET JEWS GENERALLY HAVE RISEN DRAMATICALLY OVER FIRST QUARTER OF 1977 (REFTEL A), THE ONLY LONG-TIME REFUSENIK FAMILY WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN EXIT PERMISSION IN MONTHS, TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, IS THAT OF DINA BEILINA. THAT EVENT, NORMALLY A CAUSE FOR SOME CELEBRATION, IS VIEWED IN THIS CASE AS A BAD OMEN. REFUSENIKS ASSUME THAT BEILINA'S CLOSE PERSONAL AND ADVISORY RELATIONSHIP TO FAMILY OF ANATOLIY SHCHARANSKIY WAS REASON WHY SHE GOT EXIT PERMISSION AND THAT THE EVENT PRESAGES HARSH TREATMENT OF HIS CASE.

2. JEWISH REFUSENIKS PROFESS TO SEE MORE FREQUENT AND OPEN SIGNS OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN SOVIET SOCIETY, SUCH AS RECENT ATTACKS ON JEWISH WRITERS AT WRITER'S UNION MEETING (REF B). THEY BELIEVE THAT FURTHER REPRESSION OF JEWS, PARTICULARLY REFUSENIKS, IS IN OFFING, PROBABLY THROUGH FURTHER USE OF "PARASITISM" STATUTE TO IMPRISON OR EXILE THEM. THEY CITE CURRENT INVESTIGATION FOR PARASITISM OF MOSCOW REFUSENIKS PAVEL ABRAMOVICH AND GRIGORY ROZENSHTAIN, PARASITISM CONVICTION OF TBILISI HELSINKI GROUP MEMBER GRIGORY GOLDSHTAIN (TOGETHER WITH REQUIREMENT THAT HE SERVE ONE YEAR SENTENCE AT LABOR CAMP NEAR NORTHERN CITY OF ARKHANGELSK RATHER THAN AT CAMP NEAR TBILISI, WHICH IS MORE COMMON PRACTICE), AND CURRENT INVESTIGATION AGAINST ISAI GOLDSHTAIN, GRIGORY'S BROTHER, ON SAME CHARGES AS EVIDENCE OF INCREASING USE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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PARASITISM STATUTE FOR PURPOSES OF REPRESSION. ABRAMOVICH, ACCORDING TO A SOURCE, WILL BE TRIED ON APRIL 20.

3. WE HAVE HEARD FROM ONE REFUSENIK SOURCE THAT THERE ARE RATHER BITTER DISPUTES GOING ON WITHIN THE REFUSENIK COMMUNITY ABOUT THE USE AND DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS WHICH THE COMMUNITY RECEIVES FROM SYMPATHIZERS ABROAD. BOTH THE GIFTS AND THE DISPUTES ABOUT THEM ARE MATTERS OF EXTREME SENSITIVITY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, AND WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN TOLD ANYTHING MORE ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE DISPUTES. WE SUSPECT THAT THE EFFECTS ON THE COMMUNITY OF EXTENDED SOVIET PRESSURE ARE EXACERBATING TENSION ALREADY INHERENT IN THIS SITUATION.

4. ORGANIZED ACTIVITIES BY REFUSENIKE -- SEMINARS, PETITIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES, DEMONSTRATIONS -- CONTINUE, BUT OUR PRESS CONTACTS TELL US THAT QUALITY OF REFUSENIK PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORT HAS DETERIORATED BADLY SINCE SHCHARANSKIY, ORLOV AND GINZBURG ARRESTS IN EARLY 1977 AND KGB HAS BEEN VERY EFFECTIVE IN RECENT MONTHS IN SIMPLY PREVENTING WOULD-BE DEMONSTRATORS FROM LEAVING THEIR HOMES. ALL IN ALL, WE FIND REFUSENIK COMMUNITY TODAY AS DISORGANIZED AND DISPIRI-

TED AS WE CAN RECALL HAVING SEEN IT.

5. SOME REFUSENIKS, GENERALLY EITHER NOT JEWISH OR NOT MUSCOVITE (AND THEREFORE DEPRIVED OF SUPPORT COMMUNITY OFFERS, EVEN IN ITS CURRENT DISPIRITED STATE), HAVE BEEN DRIVEN TO DESPERATE ACTION BY HOPELESSNESS THEY PERCEIVE IN THEIR SITUATION. WESTERN PRESS HAS RECENTLY REPORTED SUICIDE ATTEMPT OF MRS. AGAPOVA, WHO SWALLOWED ACID. ANOTHER REFUSENIK (BILEKOV) REPORTEDLY COMMITTED SUICIDE SEVERAL MONTHS AGO (REF C). WE HAVE HEARD REPORTS THAT ANOTHER FEMALE REFUSENIK (WE BELIEVE HER NAME IS SHISHLEV-AYA) HAS THREATENED SELF-IMMOLATION. IRINA MCCLELLAN, AFTER FOUR YEARS OF QUIET EFFORTS TO OBTAIN EXIT PERMIS-

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 08283

SION, HAS BEGUN AN ACTIVE CAMPAIGN OF PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS. CHANCES ARE INCREASING THAT ONE OR ANOTHER REFUSENIK MAY ATTEMPT A DESPERATE DRAMATIC ACT IN ORDER TO CAPTURE WESTERN ATTENTION AND OBTAIN GREATER SUPPORT. TOON

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